

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 05103 071819Z

43

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 5103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, ENRG, UR, AU

SUBJECT: KREISKY VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 8498

1. AMBASSADOR THALBERG, WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED CHANCELLOR KREISKY TO MOSCOW, HAD LITTLE TO ADD BEYOND THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS INCLUDING COMMUNIQUE TRANSMITTED BY FBIS (L 312244). DURING MAY 29 MEETING SOVIET PRESIDENT PODGORNYY INSISTED THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE TO "OPERATION POLARKA" (SOVIET MILITARY CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR INVASION OF AUSTRIA) AND SUGGESTED THAT GOA SHOULD HAVE RESTRAINED MEDIA REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT. KREISKY REPLIED THAT FREEDOM OF PRESS PROHIBITED SUCH INTERVENTION IN AUSTRIA. FOLLOWING REPEATED SOVIET REFERENCES TO DESIRABILITY OF MAINTAINING REGULAR "CONSULTATIONS" BETWEEN USSR AND AUSTRIA, KREISKY PERSUADED HIS HOSTS TO USE "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" TO AVOID MISINTERPRETATION OF RELATIONSHIP. (AUSTRIAN MEDIA SPOKE OF CONSULTATION AS FORERUNNER OF "FINLANDIZATION" DURING INITIAL PHASE OF KREISKY'S MOSCOW VISIT.)

2. LARGE PORTION OF KREISKY'S VISIT WAS DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THIS INVOLVED ESSENTIALLY A CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 05103 071819Z

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION INITIATED DURING MINISTER

OF TRADE STARIBACHER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW EARLIER THIS YEAR AND TALKS BETWEEN HEAD OF AUSTRIA'S NATIONALIZED OIL AND MINERALS COMPANY (OEMV) WITH OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW ALSO EARLIER THIS YEAR.

3. MAIN TOPICS ON GOA SIDE WERE PRICE AND QUANTITY OF AUSTRIAN CRUDE OIL AND NATURAL GAS IMPORTS AND PARTICIPATION BY AUSTRIAN INDUSTRY IN MAJOR PROJECTS IN USSR. LATTER INCLUDES NEW STEEL PLANT BEING CONSTRUCTED BY WEST GERMAN COMPANY FOR WHICH VOEST ALPINE WANTS PIECE OF THE ACTION. PRESENT STATE OF PLAY IS THAT TEAM OF RUSSIAN TRADE EXPERTS CAME TO VIENNA AFTER KREISKY VISIT IN MOSCOW AND ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH GOA TRADE MINISTRY AND OEMV OFFICIALS.

4. HEAD OF OEMV (BAUER) HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT TALKS ON CRUDE OIL AND NATURAL GAS DELIVERIES DEADLOCKED AT THE MOMENT, SINCE SOVIETS WANT SPECIFIC COUNTER DELIVERIES (MAINLY PIPES). HOWEVER, TALKS WILL CONTINUE NEXT WEEK AND BAUER CONFIDENT AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED. BAUER ALSO CONFIRMED THAT SOVIETS ARE ASKING FOR HIGHER PRICES IN NEW OIL AND GAS CONTRACT. HUMES

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